The Armed Services YMCA Welcomes VADM (Ret) William D. French to the Family

The Armed Services YMCA welcomed VADM (Ret) William D. French as he assumed his post as the new President and CEO.

"I am very excited to be a part of the Armed Services YMCA family and contribute to a team dedicated to improving the lives of our junior enlisted service members and their families," said French. "I will continue to focus on building our presence in our military community, to reach as many as we can, and help make military life easier for those who serve our nation."

VADM French retired from active duty in October 2014 with more than 35 years of service in the US Navy. His career included six command positions, more than a decade of managing naval personnel programs, and has been dedicated to supporting Sailors and their families.

"Bill’s dedication to the mission of the Armed Services YMCA, his innovative work in all facets of military family development programs, along with his focus on fiscal responsibility and the recognized need for increased fundraising efforts made him the perfect person for the job," said Lee Baxter, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, who led a six month, comprehensive search for the position.

Former President and CEO, Mike Landers, is retiring from serving military families and service members through his leadership at the ASYMCA after 15 years with the organization.

"I have been blessed with the opportunity to further the mission of the Armed Services YMCA for the past 15 years and to actively influence the size and scope of our impact for the past four years as the President and CEO," said Mike. "The organization is poised to expand our programs and services and I am very confident that Bill is exactly the right person to lead the ASYMCA, and that he will maintain our distinctive mission to serve our junior enlisted troops and their families, and help make their military life easier."

French has a strong commitment to continue to build on the rich history of the Armed Services YMCA. He has worked closely and served as a board member for a number of large, non-profit organizations dedicated to helping our service members. While serving as the Commander Navy Region Southwest in California, he partnered with the Armed Services YMCA to help identify the types of services that would complement current programs and best support military service families.
The ASYMCA is a Charity Watch and Charity Navigator top-rated, 501(c)(3) military charity. Eighty-nine cents of each dollar donated is cycled directly back into programming, ensuring the highest quality of services for our troops and families. Seventy-two percent of our support comes from public and corporate donations.
YMCA Military Outreach Initiative with the ASY

We are proud to announce that the Department of Defense has extended this successful program until March 2016!

In partnership with the Armed Services YMCA, the Y is proud to offer memberships and respite child care services to eligible military families and personnel through the Department of Defense’s (DoD) Military Outreach Initiative.

The ASYMCA has partnered with YMCAs, as well as national and independent fitness centers nationwide, to offer service members and their families free access to fitness centers and respite child care services*. The Military Outreach Initiative gives service members and military families extra support and access to vital resources that promote youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. It’s another way of giving back to those who dedicate themselves to serving our country.

Our Impact:
• More than 1,500 Community YMCAs, and more than 1,400 national and independent fitness centers nationwide participate in the Military Outreach Initiative

• Since 2008, more than 125,000 military children have been impacted by this program

• The MOI has provided more than 85,000 memberships since its launch
Armed Services YMCA Board Members and Updates
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The ASYMCA is a Charity Watch and Charity Navigator top-rated, 501(c)(3) military charity, ranking among the top two percent of charities nationwide for effectiveness and fiscal responsibility.
Combat Fishing Tournament Auction

The ASYMCA of Alaska would like to thank everyone who came out to support our Armed Services Combat Fishing Auction. This year, the Auction was held at the Hard Rock Café, and featured a live auction for seats on the boats during the tournament where winners can fish with our combat vets and local service members, plus some really fantastic auction items. There was also raffle items, a silent auction, and Split the Pot. The proceeds from this auction will go to fund our Annual Armed Services Combat Fishing Tournament.

We'd like to extend a very special Thank You to all the folks who helped to make this auction possible: Alaska Custom Firearms; Alaska USA Federal Credit Union; Alaska Tactical; Dr. Alex Baskous; Aurora Housing/JL Properties; Bass Pro Shop; B&J Commercial; Bob Candopoulos of Alaska Saltwater Safari; Bob White and Seward Gun Works; Bruce Cremer; Ducks Unlimited; Glen Klinkhardt; Gun Runners; Keith Manternach of Specialty Truck & Auto; K&L Distributors; Knight’s Taxidermy; Little Italy; Major Marine Tours; Mark Sterns; The Office of Senator Lisa Murkowski; Sadler’s Home Furnishings; Safari Club International, Anchorage Chapter; Safari Club International, Kenai Chapter; Scott Bartlett of the Seward Military Resort; The Seward Fishing Charter Fleet; Skyline Distributors; Steve Babinec; VF Grace; and The ASYMCA Board of Management.

About the Armed Services Combat Fishing Tournament:
Founded in 2006, the Combat Fishing Tournament was established to give thanks to the brave young men and women of the United States Armed Services who have served our nation with honor and courage in both the Iraq and Afghanistan theaters of war. In just a few short years the ASCFT has garnered huge success and notoriety and is now considered the largest military appreciation fishing tournament in the United States.

The 9th Annual Armed Services Combat Fishing Tournament will be held in Seward, Alaska on May 20th, 2015. Once again, thanks to the generous support of the Seward deep-sea charter fleet, many local charter vessels will be donated to the event and over 200 deserving service members will get to participate.
Happenings at Camp Pendleton Armed Services YMCA

Your Armed Services YMCA branch at Camp Pendleton has had an exciting first 4 months of 2015. The programs are in full swing serving the military families. Our programs focus on improving their quality of life and reduce the stress families encounter in the military lifestyle of deployments and relocations. This includes preschool for mother and child, after school tutoring and mentoring program for kindergarten and elementary students, emergency food and gas assistance for junior enlisted families encountering temporary financial difficulty and our newest program - Hospital Child Watch. Child Watch is a free service offered at the Camp Pendleton Naval Hospital where families can drop their children off while they attend their doctor appointments.

Besides our families, many of the young Marine students at the School of Infantry endure other types of pressure and stress in completing their final phase of basic training. To help relieve their anxiety and tension, the agency provides a free recreation center, weekly cookouts, a Thanksgiving holiday, and transportation to the main area of the base for additional recreation and retail facilities on weekends.

The final group that we focus on is the families of deployed Marines and Sailors. To reduce the stress of deployments, we provide a unique handmade quilt for children of deployed service members that include family photos. During 2014, we served 207 children with quilts from 34 quilters.

In total we served 41,000 Marines, Sailors, Soldiers, and their families with an extensive array of programs and services in 2014.

Coming attractions for the spring will include the 9th Annual Father Daughter dance with theme "A Journey to the Ice Palace" with over 450 fathers and daughters, also open to retired and veterans. In addition to our popular summer time camps for preschoolers and elementary students, we will provide events for the Marine Corps Exceptional Family Member Program. The branch will offer day camps throughout the summer in partnership with a local YMCA in Oceanside and three resident camps, two of them to Catalina Island, for military children ages 6 to 17 years.
Pre-K at Kay Bay, Honolulu ASYMCA

The following testimonial was shared with our Honolulu ASYMCA staff from an ASYMCA 2015 PreK Participants’ Parent:

“Our children have attended the ASYMCA of Honolulu preschool program for about two years and when our children were first enrolled they had basics down such as colors, shapes and most letters. Now, two years later they are writing sentences on their own by sounding out words, not only are we as their parents proud of them but they are so proud of themselves. The ASYMCA is not only academically great but it has done wonders for our kiddos socially! The staff has easily become part of our family as they take a part in helping to bring up our children in a strong academic environment.”

Twenty-Nine Palms Recognizes Month of the Military Child

The stress of military life can, at times, be overwhelming. Having an absent parent because of deployment, or frequently moving and adjusting to new neighborhoods can be disruptive and frightening for children of our military service members. Here is what some of our parents had to say about their Military Child.

“They are resilient and can adapt to changes, sometimes better than many adults.”

Another parent said “My Military Children are amazing. Even with the situations they get put in they always stay strong and don’t let it affect them being happy.”

Kudos from the ASY staff to our strong, resilient, and happy Military Children!
ASYMCA of MO Rallies Community for Annual Day of Giving

The end of 2014 was busy and exciting for the ASYMCA of MO. On November 22 we participated in Family Volunteer Day 2014, where almost 100 volunteers came out to help clean up our park, riverside, trails and around our building downtown. We participated in Giving Tuesday by collecting new socks and gloves, and by partnering with KFLW-The Fort to support their Gift of Warmth coat drive and distribution at our annual Christmas on the Square event. We extend a special thanks to Jessica and James, and KFLW for the free air time. In preparation of Giving Tuesday, we encouraged our mayor to sign a proclamation making December 2nd, Waynesville's annual Day of Giving.

Christmas on the Square arrived shortly after so we turned our space into a “Frozen” Wonderland for the event. OLAF & Elsa were on hand for free photos while there were refreshments and crafts to also enjoy. We welcomed more than 700 guests into the ASYMCA that evening.

Jason Ford’s “Austin to Boston” Bike Ride to benefit the San Diego Armed Services YMCA

The San Diego Armed Services YMCA is honored to have Jason Ford biking all the way from Austin to Boston between April and June, 2015, in support of military families!

WAYS TO GIVE:

Online:
Click the blue "Donate" button on Jason’s personal fundraising page

Check:
Make checks payable to: The San Diego Armed Services YMCA,
Memo: Jason Ford Bike Ride.

Mail to:
San Diego Armed Services YMCA;
3293 Santo Road
San Diego, CA 92124.

Phone:
Please call 858-751-5755

to make a donation over the phone.

The San Diego Armed Services YMCA is devoted to serving junior-enlisted active duty service members and their families through:

• Wounded, Injured & Ill Services
• Family & Youth Enrichment Programs
• Clinical Counseling Support

Any donation made to the San Diego Armed Services YMCA in recognition of Jason’s bike trip will go directly towards saving and enriching the lives of junior-enlisted active duty service members and their families.
Winter Wonderland Tea Party at Ft. Campbell

On January 19th the Ft. Campbell ASYMCA hosted the 5th Annual Winter Wonderland Tea Party. As each child and family entered the room, the red carpet was rolled out with their picture being taken. As the tea party started, crafts and a story was read by Princess Brittany. Later, tea, sandwiches and cookies were served and tea was sipped. The Ft. Campbell ASYMCA extends a big thank you to the high school and college volunteers that made each child’s experience extraordinary.

La Quinta Inns and Suites Partnership Helps Make Military Life Easier for a Military Family at Lawton ASYMCA

Late in 2014, the infant of a junior enlisted soldier had been transferred from Lawton to Children’s Hospital in Oklahoma City and was placed in the NICU. The family had nowhere to stay, and was faced with commuting back and forth to Lawton from Oklahoma City. Through a partnership with La Quinta Inns and Suites, the Lawton ASYMCA was able to secure vouchers for a free-stay for the family.

The staff at the La Quinta Inn & Suites (located at Oklahoma City NW Expressway) was extremely accommodating, even providing a room to the family before the vouchers arrived. The vouchers were overnighted from the ASYMCA Headquarters directly to the hotel, and the family was offered extended use of the vouchers to cover their stay while their child was being treated.

“We are so thankful and grateful,” shared the new father. “We thought we would be driving back and forth to Fort Sill instead of being able to rest just 10 minutes away from our baby.”

If you are interested in becoming a corporate sponsor or donor to help support military families like this one, please contact Jonsie Stone, Director of Financial Development, jstone@ asymca.org or 703.455.3986.
Killeen Armed Services YMCA hosts Fun, Games for Military Children
(From The Killeen Daily Herald April 19, 2015)

Pre-Teen Miss Rabbit Fest Natalie Perez paints 5-year-old Katie Anthony’s fingernails at the Armed Services YMCA Military Child Appreciation Day in Copperas Cove on Saturday.

COPPERAS COVE — From games to win free basketballs and T-shirts to little girls and the women getting royal makeovers, parents and children of all ages were able to have fun, enjoy live music and eat free hot dogs and healthy snacks during the Armed Services YMCA Military Child Appreciation Day.

“This is our second annual one. We’re working with the high school and a military co-op,” said ASYMCA director Doreen Vasseur. “They came to us last year and asked if we could do it because they didn’t have the funding. So we’re doing it again this year, and it’s even bigger and better because it’s also our Healthy Kids’ Day.”

Rabbit Fest Royalty pampered girls by painting finger- and toenails and giving them an opportunity to see what it feels like to wear a pageant tiara. Games were available, along with face painting, a bouncy castle and an opportunity to sign up for Lemonade Day. Texas A&M even set up a booth to educate parents and children about the amount of sugar different juices, sodas and other drinks contain.

“We have Navy Federal out here giving away free things, BACA — which is Bikers Against Child Abuse — is letting the kids climb on the bikes and stuff. So it’s really a community affair,” Vasseur said. “We’re really excited. We have Zumba going on, Gym Kix was here to do a presentation, we had the cheerleaders here and the color guard started off by presenting us with the colors.”

Gospel artist Sandra Hawkins happened to be friends with the disc jockey for the event, who provided his services for free, and decided “she would love to come and support” the event as well, Vasseur said.

“It’s a lot of fun. The kids are having a blast; We’re learning a lot about nutrition and the kids were catching on really quick about the sugar cubes with the drinks outside,” said Cheree Phaipanya, who brought her two children, ages 4 and 1, to the event. “I enjoy doing stuff like this, because it is so much better than sitting inside the house all day and them getting used to watching TV and playing video games instead of being outside playing.”

It didn’t hurt that the event was inside, considering the weather and the wet ground, either, the Fort Hood resident added.

“For me, it’s hard to get (the kids) out because my husband’s deployed,” Phaipanya said. “So things like this, I can watch both of them. We’re a part of the Y already, so we refer people here all the time.”
Hampton Roads Armed Services YMCA Recognizes Appomattox U.S. Civil War Sesquicentennial Celebration with Historical Coffee Wagon Display

On April 9, 1865, in what is now known as Appomattox Court House Historical Park in Virginia, Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant met Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee to set the terms of surrender of Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia, effectively ending conflict during the American Civil War.

To mark the sesquicentennial anniversary of the end of the American Civil War, Appomattox Court House is hosting a series of events to showcase the history and significance behind the end of the war. The celebration will include real time reenactments and guided walking tours of the restored historical village recreated at the national park.

To commemorate and accessorize the Appomattox events, the Hampton Roads Armed Services YMCA has collaborated with the United States Christian Commission to display a replica civil war era coffee wagon during the April 8 – 12 Sesquicentennial events.

The YMCA’s support of US Armed Forces can be traced back to 1861, when a group of local YMCA members voluntarily provided relief services to American Armed Forces in nearby encampments. Within seven months, the movement spread across the nation and the United States’ first large-scale civilian volunteer service corps, known as the United States Christian Commission, was born. During the Civil War, more than 5,000 YMCA volunteers, to include poet Walt Whitman, gave support to US troops by creating social and recreational centers, as well as libraries at camps, and by distributing provisions like medical supplies, writing materials and coffee. YMCA programming for the military and their families has continued, uninterrupted, since that time.

The coffee wagon has become an unofficial symbol of the ASYMCA. YMCA volunteers used the wagons to serve troops coffee, hot tea and cocoa in the North and South during the Civil War. Coffee wagons were even present at the surrender at Appomattox. Created in 1863 by James Dunston in Philadelphia Pennsylvania, the wagons were originally used as Army Caissons. The ASYMCA currently owns three replica Civil War era coffee wagons, each replica is seven eighths of the original size. To learn more about the coffee wagon or for information about visiting an ASYMCA replica, go to www.asymca.org or contact Laura Tucker at the Hampton Roads branch, laura.tucker@asymcahr.org.
VADM French Visits Altus Air Force Base

Altus Air Force Base rolled out the Red Carpet for incoming ASYMCA CEO William French as he made his first site inspection of the Altus ASYMCA Branch this month. Vice Admiral (Ret) French, Captain (Ret) Landers and ASYMCA Vice Chair Cathy Stone with Executive Director Joan Wilcoxen were given a mission briefing and tour of the base and Cargo Aircraft with the Vice Wing Commander Colonel Sushil Ramakha.

Over a dozen Altus Airmen presented an informative and detailed program that demonstrated the mission of the 97th Air Mobility Wing at Altus AFB and the training programs of U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III cargo aircraft and U.S. Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker refueling aircraft.

Following the tour a luncheon with Base leadership and ASYMCA Board members, which allowed everyone to engage in conversation, questions, and a resulted in delightful visit. The program concluded with the Altus Air Force Base Wing Leadership renewing their MOA with Altus ASYMCA through the year 2020.
“Operation Ride Home” Helped More Than 750 Service Members & Their Families Get Home for The Holidays

Jack Daniel’s and the Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) have raised over $220,000 to assist service members and those with families to get home for the holidays through “Operation Ride Home” in 2014.

With a 48% increase in donations from the previous year, 393 service members, for a total of 773 individuals, traveled to their homes across 43 states and were able to celebrate the holidays together this season. The program assisted service members from every branch of service.

“The outpouring of support for our servicemen and women and their families this year has been overwhelming,” said Jeff Arnett, Master Distiller for Jack Daniel’s. “Helping these heroes get home to be with their families over the holidays is the least we can do, and we thank all of our friends for their donations and supporting this worthy cause.”

New to the program in 2014, airline mile donations were accepted from selected airlines. More than 90,000 airline miles were donated as a result.

Since its beginning in 2011, Operation Ride Home has assisted 1,557 service members and their families, a total of 3,550 individuals, travel from their bases to homes across the country for the holidays.

“Spending time with loved ones is an important part of the holidays,” said Bill French, President & CEO of the ASYMCA. “Providing that opportunity to those who devote their lives to our freedom and allowing them to be with their loved ones, means so much to these young heroes and their families. The genuine gratitude and joy these families have expressed is not easily put into words, but could be felt each time we purchased their plane ticket or provided them with a gift card for gas money home.”

Through vouchers for plane tickets and prepaid debit cards to assist those who drove, Operation Ride Home has helped fund travel for junior-enlisted service members and families in need of financial aid for the past four years.

“We’d like to thank Jack Daniel’s, Brown-Forman, their distributors across the country and all of the generous, kind-hearted donors who made this possible, and allowed us to make this holiday season easier and a little brighter for our troops.” French added.

For additional information, please visit www.jdoperationridehome.com or contact the ASYMCA at 1-800-597-1260.
How Are You Making Life Easier for Military Children?

Each year April is designated nationally as Month of the Military Child, a time for military children to be recognized and celebrated for the sacrifices they make in support of our nation’s service members.

During this time, the Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) encourages Americans to honor military children by volunteering and supporting programs in their communities that directly benefit military children and families.

“Our military children experience unique challenges associated with military life, and make their own sacrifices to support our country in their own ways,” said VADM William D. French, ASYMCA President and CEO. “They deserve to be recognized and celebrated for their contributions to making their military families, and our military communities strong.”

The ASYMCA operates more than 200 program centers at our 34 branch and affiliate locations nationwide, serving more than 145,000 military children each year. ASYMCA’s unique programming is tailored to meet the needs of the junior enlisted population in local military communities.

Many ASYMCA programs are designed specifically to improve and enhance the lives of military children. One program, the Operation Hero program, is an after school mentoring and academic tutoring program for military children who are struggling socially and academically. Children are recommended for the program by their teacher or educator, because they have exhibited signs of academic or emotional distress.

Operation Hero instructors are certified educators with experience teaching and mentoring adolescents. Children are given the individual attention they need to improve not only their academic performance, but their social behavior as well.

The program aims to help teach military children healthy coping mechanisms for dealing with stress, anger and other intense emotions associated with the challenges of military life. Mentors work with Operation Hero children to help them work through difficulties connected to frequent moves, changing schools and friends often, coping with long deployments of a parent, and other challenges unique to the military community.

Operation Hero also broadens support networks, by encouraging and facilitating interaction between military children who experience many of the same challenges.

A mother of recent Operation Hero participant at Ft. Bragg shared her experience.

"Angelina is my quiet child. It takes a lot of prodding to get her to share her feelings or even what she has done through out the day at school. At parent teacher conference there
has been concern regarding her participation in group activities and class discussions. When she first told me that she wanted permission to be a part of Operation Hero I was reluctant to say yes. Aside from being present at all sessions, it is also a requirement to participate in all activities. She assured me that she would so I signed the permission form. Since being a part of Operation Hero, Angelina has become more sociable and expresses her self more here at home. She proudly lets me know if she’s participated in class or completed a reading counts. With her father being away on deployment she is the one that keeps all of us in good spirits and recently she cried and expressed how much she misses her dad. She is not one to cry much. One thing that has surprised me is her new found independence and confidence in doing her homework. She no longer waits for me to assist her. She comes home with it completed and we review it together. I am so glad she insisted that I let her be a part of Operation Hero. We are sad it will be ending soon but I am sure her experience and the friends she has made through Operation Hero are things she will always remember. Thank you.”


This is one example from one of the many programs designed to support and improve the lives of our military children. Programs like Operation Hero would not be possible without the generous support of the public. Demands for this program, and many others continue to increase. Please consider ways you can help support the military children in your community.

For more information about Operation Hero and other ASYMCA Programs, go to www.ASYMCA.org.

Welcome to Our New Affiliates

In 2014 we extended our reach by supporting programs and events at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington, and Joint Base Andrews in Maryland. These centers will provide recreational and educational experiences for service members and their families.

The Raindrops and Rainbows Center at JBLM, serves as a gathering place for families with young children to meet and make connections. Parents and their children, ages 0–5 years, may drop in to play, learn, and take part in a variety of scheduled activities coordinated by facility staff.

ASYMCA support at JBA will enhance monthly activities and programs at the youth center, allowing military children and families a low or no cost option for fun and learning. Children at the youth center take field trips, participate in fitness, dance and educational classes tailored to their interests.
2015 ASYMCA Annual Art and Essay Contest Winners Announced

We received many creative, artistic and beautiful entries for this year’s contest, making judging more difficult than ever! Thank you to everyone who submitted an essay or art work. You are all very talented artists and writers. Your dedication to your military families and heroes deserves to be recognized and celebrated. We are proud of your work and even more proud of your contributions to our military community.

A special thank you to Art and Essay Contest sponsor, GEICO, and to everyone who supported this year’s contest. We appreciate all those who helped spread the word about this contest at schools and in your communities.

The annual ASYMCA Art and Essay Contest allows children to express their love, appreciation and admiration for their military heroes. Their essays and artwork also serve to remind us of the sacrifices our men and women in uniform, and their families, make each day for our country. We hope to continue encouraging creative expression through writing and art.

The contest begins each November, during National Military Family Appreciation Month, and winners are announced each April during Month of the Military Child. Check www.asymca.org for updates and program details.

THE ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS ARE:

First & Second Grade Category
Anthony Herbst

Third & Fourth Grade Category
Melina Guth

Fifth & Sixth Grade Category
Laura Cullen

Seventh & Eighth Grade Category
Alaina Hoffbuhr

Ninth & Tenth Grade Category
Alexandria Puskar

Eleventh & Twelfth Grade Category
Emma K. Jeffries
THE ART CONTEST WINNERS ARE

AIR FORCE
Colton Lennen, Age 10

ARMY
Alessandra Porres, Age 9

COAST GUARD
Leilani Rockwell, Age 10

MARINES
Patryk Ozog, Age 10

NATIONAL GUARD
Luke Metzler, Age 8

NAVY
Gabriel A. Crane, Age 10
G6 Hospitality Group and the ASYMCA Team Up to Make a Difference In Military Communities

G6 Hospitality, known for its iconic economy lodging brands, Motel 6 and Studio 6 in the U.S. and Canada, and The Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) are partnering to make a difference in the lives of our country’s junior enlisted service members and their families. The new partnership serves both ASYMCA’s mission to make military life easier, and G6’s initiative to make an impact on the ground level in the military communities they are a part of. The announcement was made during an official ceremony where G6 also presented ASYMCA with a $25,000 donation.

“We are excited to partner with ASYMCA and provide additional resources that further support its efforts, programs and initiatives,” said Jim Amorosia, President and CEO of G6 Hospitality. “Early this year, we announced our commitment to support the military communities and serve those who have made so many sacrifices for our country, and this is just another step in that direction.”

In December 2014, G6 donated more than $4,000 to support the ASYMCA Killeen Branch’s holiday programs. These funds were distributed to needy military families in the Killeen community who were able to purchase gifts and toys for their children and celebrate a joyful holiday.

“I want to thank you for your support. [Our family] would like you to know that you are such a blessing for our family. We were not really looking forward to Christmas,” shared the Robinson Family, who received gift cards to purchase toys for their family. “We tried to look at what December 25 is really about, thankful for Jesus Christ being born to make life better and being thankful for what we have. You have given my children even more reason to be thankful and something to open up on that special day. Thank you again and you will never know how grateful we are.”

“We are so thankful to have partnered with a company whose philanthropic values and mission so closely aligns with ours,” said Bill French, ASYMCA President and CEO. “Their support, along with the passion their leadership and employees have for serving our country’s heroes will provide a lasting impact in the military communities we serve.”

Part of G6’s unique business and philanthropic model rests on the idea that it takes people to become great, not just assets and resources. Therefore, G6 is supporting ASYMCA’s community initiatives and engaging leaders in those communities to make a great impact. In addition to the financial support, G6’s employees will also serve as volunteers to help ASYMCA initiatives and programs, reaching the more than 500,000 service members and their families the ASYMCA serves each year. Volunteers with G6 will have opportunities to interact with the service members and military families while volunteering, and see the impact they are making first hand.

“It’s easy for us to give rooms, but it is really important for us to get more involved, and for our employees to pour themselves into our communities,” said Nikki Kresse, VP of Corporate Human Resources. “We want to make an impact with more than our wallets.”

The ASYMCA depends on more than 15,000 volunteers each year to help implement programming and provide support at its 34 branch and affiliate locations, many located on military installations. G6 employees will participate in the more than 127,000 hours ASYMCA volunteers donate each year.
Letter from our President & CEO

One of my favorite things about the 35 years I served in the US Navy, was the feeling I was helping someone. I was making a difference in the world. I was helping my country, American citizens, my family, friends and the people I loved, but also my fellow service men and women. We are a strong, tight knit community. “No man left behind,” is not just a motto we employ during combat, we live by it every day.

I was drawn to the Armed Services YMCA because of their commitment to making military life easier and their ability to reach those who serve on the ground level. Last year, ASYMCA programming reached more than 500,000 service members and military families at 34 branch and affiliate locations throughout the country. This is an extraordinary reach that I wanted to be a part of, and help extend.

ASYMCA programming is unique, yet diverse in meeting the needs of the military community. All of our programming is designed to make military life easier while focusing on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. We work hand in hand with military installation leaders to determine gaps in current support, and then tailor our programs to meet those needs.

Recently I was invited to speak about why I became involved with the ASYMCA. I decided to share a story from one of the ASYMCA’s military children.

In 2012, a child named Skylee entered our annual Art & Essay Contest. Following the theme “My Military Hero,” Skylee wrote:

“Military Heroes are very special. My military hero is my dad. He was excited when his military changed from Arkansas National Guard to active duty. He has been to Fort Lewis. Then he came to Fort Campbell. He only got to deploy once. He wore black shorts with a T-shirt a lot... Most of the time he wore ACU’s. My dad loved our family. He would take us fishing most of the time. He likes to take us to the park in front of our house. He liked the Army. He liked to help people. My dad always wanted to be a soldier. He enjoyed serving his country. Now he rests beside many great heroes at Arlington National Cemetery.”

Children like Skylee, and service members like Skylee’s father are the reason I joined the ASYMCA team. I am proud to represent an organization that is so committed to helping our troops and works hard every day to make military life easier.

Sincerely,

William D. French
VADM, USN (Ret)
Our Mission

The mission of the Armed Services YMCA of the USA, on behalf of the National Council of Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States of America, is to put Christian principles into practice through educational, recreational, social and religious programs and services for military personnel, both single and married and their family members. The mission is carried out in cooperation with the military.

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